

CLAIMS:

1. An enhanced breathing device for use in a mouth of a user and comprising:

5 a flexible hollow tube comprising a proximal end, a distal end, an outer perimeter, and further comprising:

an extraoral segment extending to the proximal end of the tube and comprising at least one opening, wherein the extraoral segment extends externally from the mouth of the user;

10 an intraoral segment extending to the distal end of the tube and comprising at least one opening, wherein the intraoral segment extends into the mouth of the user and comprises a length sufficient for extending beyond a retromolar space, into the oropharynx and terminating between the posterior
15 tongue and the soft palate;

an intermediate segment extending between the extraoral and intraoral segments and comprising a length sufficient for extending along the buccopharyngeal pathway of the mouth of the user; and

20 a stop mounted on the tube to secure the intraoral segment within the oropharynx and to prevent a lengthwise movement of the tube relative to the mouth of the user.

25 2. The enhanced breathing device of claim 1, wherein the stop abuts a rear molar in the mouth of the user.

30 3. The enhanced breathing device of claim 1, wherein the stop comprises an outer perimeter that is larger than the retromolar space and the outer perimeter of the tube is smaller than the retromolar space.

4. The enhanced breathing device of claim 1, wherein the stop is adjustable lengthwise along the tube.

35 5. The enhanced breathing device of claim 1, wherein the stop is slidably movable along the outer perimeter of the tube.

6. The enhanced breathing device of claim 1, further comprising an extension from the outer perimeter of the tube that prevents a distal movement of the stop therepast.

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7. The enhanced breathing device of claim 6, wherein the extension is on the intraoral segment of the tube.

8. The enhanced breathing device of claim 1, wherein the
10 distal end of the tube is angled to facilitate insertion of the intraoral segment into the retromolar space.

9. The enhanced breathing device of claim 1, wherein the tube comprises an outer preformed bend having a convex side and
15 an opposite concave side.

10. The enhanced breathing device of claim 9, wherein the extraoral segment comprises an open end; the intraoral segment comprises an open end and at least one ventilation opening
20 disposed on at least one of the convex side and the concave side of the tube; and the intermediate segment contains at least one ventilation opening disposed on at least one of an upper side between the convex and concave sides of the tube and an opposite lower side of the tube.

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11. The enhanced breathing device of claim 1, further comprising a retention diaphragm slidably mounted on the tube for securing the intermediate segment within the user's buccopharyngeal pathway.

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12. The enhanced breathing of claim 1, wherein the tube has a performed outer shape comprising a first portion with a first concave surface and an opposite first convex surface and a second portion with a second convex surface and an opposite
35 second concave surface.

13. The enhanced breathing of claim 1, wherein the stop is formed as a preformed expansion in the tube.

14. The enhanced breathing of claim 1, further comprising
5 an oxygen source comprising an outlet disposed in close proximity to the tube, allowing oxygen to flow from the outlet of the oxygen source to the tube.

15. The enhanced breathing of claim 14, wherein the outlet
10 of the oxygen source is connected to the extraoral segment.

16. The enhanced breathing of claim 14, wherein the tube comprises a connector stem that removably connects to the outlet of the oxygen source.

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17. The enhanced breathing of claim 14, wherein an end of the oxygen source is disposed in surrounding relation to the extraoral segment of the tube.

20 18. The enhanced breathing of claim 14, wherein the outlet of the oxygen source is connected to a mask that is disposed in surrounding relation to the extraoral segment of the tube.

25 19. The enhanced breathing device of claim 1, wherein the extraoral segment comprises an open end and wherein the intraoral segment comprises an open end.

20. The enhanced breathing device of claim 19, wherein the open end of the intraoral segment is angled starting from an
30 upper side of the tube to a lower side of the tube.

21. The enhanced breathing device of claim 19, wherein the intraoral segment comprises at least one ventilation opening.

35 22. The enhanced breathing device of claim 21, wherein the intermediate segment comprises at least one ventilation opening.

23. The enhanced breathing device of claim 22, wherein the extraoral segment comprises at least one ventilation opening.

5 24. An enhanced breathing for use in a mouth of a user and comprising:

 a flexible hollow tube comprising a proximal end, a distal end, an outer perimeter, and further comprising:

10 an extraoral segment extending to the proximal end of the tube and comprising at least one opening, wherein the extraoral segment extends externally from the mouth of the user;

 an intraoral segment extending to the distal end of the tube and comprising at least one opening, wherein the intraoral segment extends into the mouth of the user and
15 comprises a length sufficient for extending beyond a retromolar space, into the oropharynx and terminating between the posterior tongue and the soft palate; and

 an intermediate segment extending between the extraoral and intraoral segments and comprising a length
20 sufficient for extending along the buccopharyngeal pathway of the mouth of the user; and

 an oxygen source comprising an outlet disposed in close proximity to the tube, allowing oxygen to flow from the outlet of the oxygen source to the tube.

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25. The enhanced breathing of claim 24, wherein the outlet of the oxygen source is connected to the extraoral segment.

26. The enhanced breathing of claim 24, wherein the tube
30 comprises a connector stem that removably connects to the outlet of the oxygen source.

27. The enhanced breathing of claim 24, wherein an end of the oxygen source is disposed in surrounding relation to the
35 extraoral segment of the tube.

28. The enhanced breathing of claim 24, wherein the outlet of the oxygen source is connected to a mask that is disposed in surrounding relation to the extraoral segment of the tube.

5 29. The enhanced breathing of claim 24, further comprising a stop slidably mounted on the tube to abut a rear molar in the mouth of the user to secure the intraoral segment within the oropharynx and to prevent a lengthwise movement of the tube relative to the mouth of the user.

10 30. The enhanced breathing of claim 24, wherein the distal end of the tube is angled to facilitate insertion of the intraoral segment into the retromolar space.

15 31. The enhanced breathing of claim 24, wherein the tube comprises an outer preformed bend having a convex side and an opposite concave side.

20 32. The enhanced breathing of claim 31, wherein the extraoral segment comprises an open end; the intraoral segment comprises an open end and at least one ventilation opening disposed on at least one of the convex side and the concave side of the tube; and the intermediate segment contains at least one ventilation opening disposed on at least one of an upper side
25 between the convex and concave sides of the tube and an opposite lower side of the tube.

30 33. The enhanced breathing of claim 24, wherein the stop is formed as a preformed expansion in the tube.

34. A method of creating a buccopharyngeal airway in a mouth of a user, the method comprising:

providing a flexible hollow tube having a proximal end and a distal end;

positioning an extraoral segment of the tube, which extends to the proximal end of the tube and has at least one opening, exterior to the mouth of the user;

5 positioning an intraoral segment of the tube, which extends to the distal end of the tube and has at least one opening, beyond a retromolar space in the mouth of the user, into the oropharynx and terminating between the posterior tongue and the soft palate; and

10 positioning an intermediate segment of the tube, which extends between the extraoral and intraoral segments, along the buccopharyngeal pathway of the mouth of the user.

15 35. The method of claim 34, further comprising securing the intraoral segment within the oropharynx.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein securing the intraoral segment within the oropharynx comprises positioning a stop in abutment with a rear molar in the mouth of the user.

20 37. The method of claim 34, further comprising separating at least a portion of the posterior tongue from the soft palate of the user.

25 38. The method of claim 37, wherein separating at least a portion of the posterior tongue from the soft palate of the user comprises positioning at least a portion of the intraoral segment between the posterior tongue and the soft palate.

30 39. The method of claim 34, further comprising providing an oxygen source that delivers oxygen to the tube.

35 40. The method of claim 39, further comprising positioning an outlet of the oxygen source in close proximity to the tube to allow oxygen to flow from the outlet of the oxygen source to the tube.

41. The method of claim 40, further comprising connecting the outlet of the oxygen source to the extraoral segment of the tube.

5 42. The method of claim 40, further comprising providing a connector stem on the tube and connecting the outlet of the oxygen source to the connector stem.

10 43. The method of claim 39, further comprising positioning an end of the oxygen source in surrounding relation to the extraoral segment of the tube.

15 44. The method of claim 39, further comprising connecting the oxygen source to a mask and disposing the mask in surrounding relation to the extraoral segment of the tube.

20 45. The enhanced breathing of claim 1, wherein the enhanced breathing device is a medical device that enhances the breathing of the user during a medical procedure.

46. The enhanced breathing of claim 24, wherein the enhanced breathing device is a medical device that enhances the breathing of the user during a medical procedure.

25 47. The enhanced breathing of claim 1, wherein the enhanced breathing device is an anti-snoring device.

48. The enhanced breathing of claim 24, wherein the enhanced breathing device is an anti-snoring device.

30 49. The method of claim 34, wherein said creating a buccopharyngeal airway in the mouth of the user enhances the breathing of the user during a medical procedure.

50. The method of claim 34, wherein said creating a buccopharyngeal airway in the mouth of the user enhances the breathing of the user during sleep to reduce snoring.